THE PROTESTATION Of diverſe MINISTERS AGAINST The Proceedings of the late COMMISSION of the CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

AS ALSO

Againſt the lawfulneſſe of the preſent pretended

ASSEMBLY.

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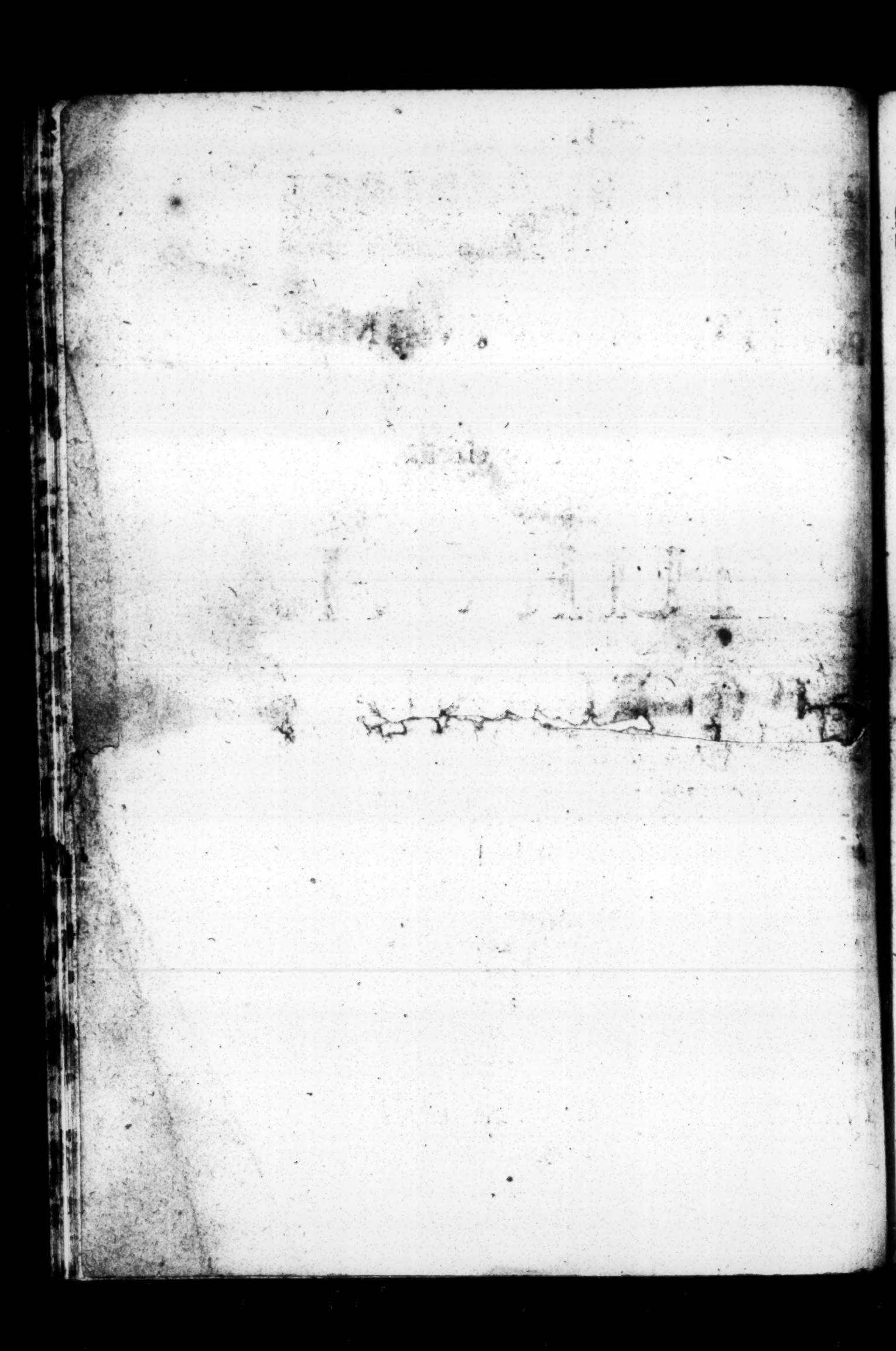

THE PROTESTATION of divers Miniſters, againſt the Proceedings of the late Commiſſion of the Church, as alſo againſt the lawfulneſſe of the preſent pretended ASSEMBLY.

Right Reverend,

HOw gracious God hath been to the Church of *Scotland*, in giving her pure Ordinances; we truſt that while we live, it ſhall be acknowledged with Thankfulneſſe by us unto the Moſt High, of whom we deſire mercy and grace to adhere unto the Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline and Government eſtabliſhed in this Land, amongſt the many ſad tokens of the Lords indignation and wrath againſt this Kirk, the preſent differences of his Servants in the Miniſtery, is looked upon by us, and we believe by all the Godly in the Land, as one of the greateſt. And as we hold it a duty deeply to be humbled before the Lord in the ſence thereof, and by all lawfull and fair means, within the compaſs of our power and ſtation, to endeavour the remedy; So we do acknowledge a free Generall Aſſembly lawfully called, and rightly conſtituted, and proceeding with

meekneſs and love in the Spirit of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, according to the Rule of the Word, and the Acts and Conſtitutions of this Kirk, to be amongſt the firſt and moſt effectuall means appointed of God for obtaining the ſame, and for preſerving purity, and advancing the power of the Work of Reformation in this Age, and tranſmitting the ſame unſpotted to our poſterity, and to the Ages and Generations that are to come: But that as the faithfull ſervants of Jeſus Chriſt in this Church in former times did by his good hand on them in the right adminiſtration of free and lawfull Gen. Aſſemblies, bring the Work of Reformation in *Scotland* unto a great perfection and nigh conformity with the firſt pattern: So unfaithful men minding their own things more then the things of Chriſt, & uſurping over their Brethren and the Lords Inheritance, did deface the beauty thereof, firſt by encroaching upon the liberty and freedom of Aſſemblyes, afterwards by taking away the very Aſſemblies themſelves. Therefore remembring and calling to mind the many Bonds and Obligations that lyes upon us from the Lord, and being deſirous to be found faithfull in this day of Temptation, and to exonour our conſciences as in his ſight, and to avoid the acceſſion unto that guiltines in which many have involved themſelves. And conceiving that this Meeting is not a lawfull General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, in regard that the election of Commiſſioners to the ſame, have been limited and prejudiced in the due liberty thereof, by a Letter and Act of their Commiſſioners of the laſt Aſſembly ſent to Preſbyteries, appointing ſuch Brethren as after Conference remained unſatisfied with, and continued to oppoſe the publick Reſolutions, to be ſcited to the Gen. Aſſembly.

bly. And in regard the Commiſ. of many Burghs and Presbyteries are abſent as wanting free acceſs, by reaſon of the Motions of the Enemy: And in regard that many of the Commiſsioners of the laſt Gen. Aſſembly have carried on a courſe of defection, contrary to the Truſt committed to them, and to the Acts and Conſtitutions of this Church: And who in their Remonſtrances and Papers, have ſtirred up the Civill Magiſtrate againſt ſuch who are unſatisfied in their conſciences with their proceedings, and who have prælimited the Aſſem. by their Letter and Act formerly mentioned, are admitted to ſit, & voted as Members of the Aſſem. and their Moderator choſen to be Moderator of the Aſſembly, notwithſtanding timous exception was made againſt them, that they ought not to be admitted as Members of the Aſſembly, untill their proceedings were firſt tryed and approven by the Aſſembly: And in regard that his Majeſty, and his Majeſties Commiſs. by his ſpeech, did incite too hard courſes againſt thoſe who are unſatisfied in their conſciences, with the proceedings of the Commiſs. before the tryal and approbation of the Commiſſion Book, or any Act made by the Aſſembly for the approving their proceedings; We do upon theſe and many other important grounds and reaſons, to be proponed and given in time and place convenient, in the name of the Church of *Scotland*, and in our names, and in the name of all Miniſters, Ruling-Elders, and Profeſſours of this Kirk, who do, or ſhall adhere to us, Proteſt againſt the validity and conſtitution of this Aſſembly, as not being free and lawfull: And that they may not aſſume unto themſelves any authority, nor exerciſe any power or juriſdiction for determining of Controverſies, making of Acts, emitting of Declarations, judging of Proteſtati-

ons;

tions or Appeales, or proceedings of Synods, or inferior Judicatories, or Censuring Persons or Papers, or issuing of Commissions of whatsoever sort to any persons whatsoever, and in particular Protests that they may not proceed unto the Approbation or Ratification of the proceedings of the former Commission, not only because of the want of just Power and Authority so to do, but also because these proceedings contein many things contrary to the trust committed to there Commissioners, especially their allowing and carring on a conjunction with the Malignant Party, and bringing them into places of Power and Trust in the Judicatories and in the Army, contrary to the Word of God, solemn League and Covenant, The solemn Confession of Sins, and Engagement to Duties, the constant tenor of Warnings, Declarations, Remonstrances, Causes of Humiliation, Letters, Supplications, Acts and Constitutions of this Kirk, and the laying a foundation for the Civil Magistrate, to meddle with these things which concern Ministers, their Doctrine and exercise of Ministeriall Duties before they be cited, tried, and censured by the Judicatories of the Kirk. And we Protest, that whatsoever Determinations, Acts, Ratifications, Declar. Censures, or Commissions that shalbe made or given by them, may be Voide and Null, and may not be interpreted as binding to the Kirk of *Scotland*, But that notwithstanding thereof, it may be free for us, and such as adhere to us, to exercise our Ministery and enjoy the due Christian liberty of our Consciences, according to the Word of God, Nationall Covenant, solemn League and Covenant, the Confession of Sins, and Engagements to Duties, and all the

the Acts and Constitutions of this Kirk; and that there may be liberty to choose Commissioners, and to convein a free and Lawfull Generall Assembly, when there shall be need, and the Lord shall give opportunity, and to adde what further reasons shall have weight for strengthening this our Protestation, and shewing the nullity of this Assembly, and the unwarrantablenesse of the proceedings of the Commissioners of the former Assembly; and that these presents may be put upon Record in the Registers of the Generall Assembly to be extant *ad futuram rei memoriam*, and that we may have a subscribed Extract under the Clerks hand.

Subscribed and presented at St. Andrews 20. July, 1651. by *Mr.* Andrew Cant, *Moderator of the last Assembly.*

Mr. *Samuel Rutherford.*
Mr. *James Guthery.*
Mr. *[illegible].*
Mr. *John Meinzies.*
Mr. *Ephraim Melvin.*
Mr. *John Carstaires.*
Mr. *William Adair.*
Mr. *Thomas Wyllie.*
Mr. *John Nevoy.*
Mr. *James Simpson.*
Mr. *William Guthery.*
Mr. *Alexander Moncreife.*
Mr. *John Hamilton* in Inderkip.
Mr. *Robert Muire.*
Mr. *John Hart.*
Mr. *Andrew Donaldson.*
Mr. *Robert Keith.*
And Ten other Ministers.

Right Reverend,

WE are constrained by many necessities, and by transferring of the Assembly, to be absent from your subsequent meeting; And having laid to heart what the Lord requireth of us in this day of so sad a dispensation

dispensation, and so to rise a Controversie against
Land. We think our selves bound in conscience, to
open to you, that we are much unsatisfied with
proceedings of the Commiss. of the late Gen. Assem
relating to the in-bringing and in-trusting of the M
lignant-Party, with the consequences thereof; there
suing forth one Act with a Letter, to the prejudi
we conceive, of the Presbyteries Election of Comm
to this Assembly, which hath need to be looked
lest the freedom of this High Court of Jesus Christ
such preparatives, be infringed. We with it be y
doms care, that begun Evils be remedied, Our bleed
wounds with tender hands bound up, & that the fi
wrath of the Lord smoaking in our bowels may
quenched: and do in all humility and reverence of
wisdoms, & tenderness of respect to precious men,
we much honour and love in the Lord, though in
matter we most differ from them in judgements, P
test that the foresaid proceedings be not Ratified
approven by you: and that we be not involved in
guilt and consequences to the Ratifications the
And this we crave to be Recorded in your Reg
for the vindication of Truth, and exoneration of
Consciences. The Lord give you wisdom in all thi
and powre out upon you a spirit of healing the b
slidings of the Land of building up our Breaches.

We rest your Wisdoms loving Brethren
servants in Christ.

Subscribed and sent from Perth *to* Dundee (*to wh*
place the Assembly was adjourned from S. Andrews *upo*
21. July 1651. *by* M. Alex. Dunlap, Wil. Sum[illegible]vell, J
Mauld, James Donaldson, John Veatch, John H
milton, in Carmichael, Alex. Barterem Ministers,
William Brown *of* Dolphington *a ruling Elder.*

FINIS.